

What Happens After Death

Places that exist for those that have died:

- Hell = Lake of fire. Only after the judgement will people go there. Before that only Satan, the antichrist and the false prophet.
- The abyss = bottomless pit – inhabited by some demons that will be released. Some think demons that Christ sent there ,some think the unembodied Nephilim.
- Sheol / Hades – The grave, a pit. Sometimes referred to as the sea. The place of the dead before judgement. Not purgatory.
- Gehena – Hell representation
- Abraham's bosom / Paradise - Also Sheol
- Heaven – New Earth.

There is a difference as to what happens to a person immediately after physical death depending on whether they are a believer or not.

Before the Resurrection – Unbeliever

Luke 16:22-23 So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

- This is a parable Jesus used to show how we should treat people.
- In it, we get an unrealistic view of a truth that Jesus knew and everyone else knew – the afterlife. Hades was not the shock factor of the story.
 - The shock factor was the rich man being in Hades. They believed rich = blessed by God.

Luke 16:26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'

- It is divided into 2 sections. Sheol and Paradise. We will concentrate on Sheol, or Hades for the unbeliever.

1 Peter 3:19-20 by whom also He went and preached to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ who formerly were disobedient, when once the Divine longsuffering waited in the days of Noah, while *the* ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight souls, were saved through water.

- Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit, went to the spirits imprisoned (after his death on the cross). They would have been imprisoned in Sheol, these being spirits that were disbelieving (disobedient in Greek = unbelieving, without faith).
- What we do not know is what He preached, or what was the outcome of His preaching. AND it is somewhat pointless to try to know, since the Bible does not say.

So OT unbelievers went to Sheol, or Hades. It is a terrible place. Filled with darkness. It is not purgatory. There is no way out until the judgement.

But we will not get to the end of their story until later, since they will meet up with another category – unbelievers that die after the Resurrection.

Before the Resurrection – Person of Faith

This is the other side of Sheol/Hades – Better known as Paradise.

We do not know anything about what it is like there, just that it is referred to as Paradise.

This is not heaven.

And yes, people were saved prior to Jesus.

- **Romans 4:1-3** What then shall we say that Abraham our father has found according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works,

he has *something* to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? "*Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.*"

- **The path to salvation is and always has been through faith – not works. Each person being responsible for the revelation of God given until that time.**

Luke 23:42-43 Then he said to Jesus, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." ⁴³ And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

- Jesus did not take him to heaven. He took him to Paradise.
- Jesus did not go to heaven after the crucifixion. Not until His Ascension.
- Jesus first went to preach to the prisoners.
- After Jesus resurrected and Ascended, then He released the captives from Paradise.
- **Ephesians 4:8-10** Therefore He says: "*When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men.*"⁹ (Now this, "*He ascended*"—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)
 - We do not know the exact timing of this, but Jesus was first to resurrect, first to ascend – and this appears to be in correlation with Pentecost since it ties in giving gifts to men – most likely referring to the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- The believers that are released from Paradise are given entrance to Heaven where they will then join in with believers that die after the resurrection.

After the Resurrection – Unbeliever

- They go to Sheol, or the grave. I do not know what they are like, whether it is sleep or darkness or whatever. But it's bad.
- Then, at the end of the world, they will stand judgement before the Great White Throne.

- **Revelation 20:11-15** Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.
- People not in the Book of Life (unbelievers) will be judged according to their works, and we know that no one is able to have works get them into heaven. But they will stand in judgment for them.

Revelation 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them.

- This is the judgement seat. This is the moment people are referring to with Judgement Day.
 - **Hebrews 9:27** And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment
- Him who is on the throne – Who is on the throne?
 - The judge is Jesus
 - **John 5:22** For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son
- Now the dead are judged before God.
- The sea, Death, and Hades all give up their dead
- Books were opened. All of our acts are written in books.

- The Book of Life is the Main decider. If their names are not in there, then they must be judged according to their works. Which never works out well.

Revelation 20:14-15 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Now death and Hades are cast into the lake of fire.
- The second death. This is the definition of the second death.
 - This is where the saying Born once die twice, Born twice die once comes from.
- And finally, all those who rejected Jesus and are judged according to their works are now cast into the lake of fire. They also must experience the second death.

Death = Separation. Second death = Separation from God.

Matthew 25:46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

- Everlasting = aionios = Perpetual (eternal is also the same word)
- Punishment = kolasis = penal infliction, torment.

Unbelievers will face perpetual torment.

But the righteous perpetual life – Life = zoe

There are 3 words in the Bible for life. Zoe, Biotikos, Psuche.

- Biotikos = Physical life. Existence.
 - **Luke 21:34** “But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly.
 - Psuche = the natural life of a person

- **Matthew 10:39** He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.
- Zoe = - the absolute fullness of life which belongs to God.
 - **Matthew 7:14** Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

After the Resurrection - Believer

Matthew 6:19-21 "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Believers only experience physical death, not spiritual death.

- We go straight to Jesus upon death.
 - **2 Corinthians 5:6-8** So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
- We then face judgement at the Judgement Seat of Christ
 - **2 Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
 - That makes it sound like believers will also be judged according to their works. But that is not the case.
 - **Revelation 22:12** "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work.

- The judgement of the believer is to determine the rewards (or treasures) that we will receive in heaven.

If we are judged to get rewards, why did Paul say “each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”

- **1 Corinthians 3:11-15** For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.
- Any work done through love, faith in Jesus, and obedience will result in treasure in heaven.
- All work (regardless of what it is) done through selfish-ambition, the flesh, in our own strength, out of envy, or obligation will be burned up.
- This should motivate us to live by faith, love and obedience to Christ.
- Rewards are not meant to condemn or bring anxiety. Just to move our hearts from the physical to the spiritual.

John 5:24-29 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." ²⁵ Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, ²⁷ and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. ²⁸ Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Miscellaneous:

Revelation 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

- New heaven and new earth is earth and atmosphere. Space. But not heaven as we think of heaven. That is not new.
 - For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I create; for behold, I create a Jerusalem as a rejoicing, and her people a joy. **(Isaiah 65:17-18)**
 - Looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat... Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. **(2 Peter 3:12-13)**
- The word new is kainos which means “new in character, fresh.” Neos means new according to time.
- So this isn’t just a next earth, but a fresher, or better earth.

Revelation 19:20 Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Revelation 20:10 The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

- Cast into the lake of fire – Satan is forever cast into hell. The antichrist and false prophet are already there.

- Tormented forever – We are all created to exist forever. We will either be with God (alive/new life) or separated from God (dead/second death). The difference is heaven vs. hell.

Revelation 20:14-15 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

The order – Currently hell is empty. First, the false prophet and the beast, then Satan, then Death and Hades, and finally unbelievers.